

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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allowances...allowance to \$60 for persons residing in alternative care arrangements other than nursing homes, and intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded. So LB 119 actually only impacts the remaining 6,000 persons living in nursing homes and ICFMR. The State General Fund's annual fiscal impact would be around \$621,000. The federal government picks up the rest. Remember, they're on Medicaid. The current \$40 personal needs allowance has not been increased in 11 years. This monthly payment of \$40 covers all of their personal needs, such as hygiene, hair care, beauty shop, entertainment, gifts, subscriptions, correspondence with family and friends, and some clothing items. Most of these individuals have little or no other sources of income. I know most of you understand what happens when someone's assets are used up and the person has to go on Medicaid, which is federal government money and a match...match from the state. But when you stop to think of it, even a card for your grandchild can cost \$1.25. It's very difficult to buy a greeting card for much less than that anywhere, so it's difficult. Or if they want to give a grandchild a dollar when they come in to see them, these people don't have a whole lot of cash to do things like that with. Many of them in certain nursing homes have no family. There are people like that around who absolutely don't have anyone to come and help them or to supplement this little bit of money that they get, so \$50, another \$10, would be a lot of money to them. The other thing I want to remind you is that most, the higher percentage of Medicaid money in the state of Nebraska goes to people who are in nursing homes or disabled people. I always point that out so you understand that that's...that population are the ones that we're talking about and they are the ones who would benefit from this extra \$10 a month. So, if you have any questions as to the technical side of it, I'll be glad to try to answer them. And the other thing, I do understand someone was going to find out, we don't quite have the...the actual number, the actual figure, but in the veterans homes the monthly allowance is much higher than this and much higher than the \$60. So, if you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them. I would appreciate your vote to move it on to Select File and, since there is money in it, then it will sit until the budget comes through and all the A bills are in so we can see whether or not we can have the \$621,000. Thank you.